

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: PARIS

Info

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 3261, MARCH 9, 9 P.M.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 3261, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 336, LONDON 714,
BERLIN 98, MOSCOW 198.

PASS DEFENSE

FROM HILLENBRAND

1. AT FIRST FOUR POWER WORKING GROUP MEETING FRENCH
CHAIRMAN URGED IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING LEAKS AND ALL
AGREED DELEGATIONS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING WORKING
GROUP DELIBERATIONS WITH PRESS.

2. DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATION WORK PROGRAM REVEALED
BRITISH UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION OF REPLY
SOVIET NOTE MARCH 2 AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER MACMILLAN
VISITED BONN. ALSO, GERMANS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
REFRAIN AT THIS POINT FROM TAKING ANY SUBSTANTIVE
POSITIONS ON WESTERN POSITION, PARTICULARLY IN SECURITY
AREA. GERMANS PREPARED TO TABLE PAPERS ON ASPECTS OF
REUNIFICATION, APPARENTLY PLEBISCITE AND OUTLINES OF
MEISSNER-FECHTER PLAN. ALSO READY TABLE WORKING LEVEL
DRAFT REPLY SOVIET NOTE FOR DISCUSSION. TEXT BEING
SENT SEPARATELY.

3. FRENCH ARGUED FOR PREPARATION OF REPORT COUCHED IN
VERY GENERAL TERMS WHICH WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP
AGREED WESTERN POSITION BUT WOULD SET OUT ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES FOR CONSIDERATION OF MINISTERS. THIS IN
LINE WITH LALOY STATEMENT TO HILLENBRAND EARLIER IN DAY
WHICH SUGGESTED FRENCH NOT PREPARED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH
PROBLEMS IN SPECIFIC TERMS AT THIS LEVEL.

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Control: 5408

Rec'd: MARCH 9, 1959
5:41 P.M.

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7/20/60
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762,00/3-95-9

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Authority NND 877418

By DCF NARA, Date 1-5-92

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-2- 3261, MARCH 9, 9 P.M., FROM PARIS

4. UNITED STATES STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MAKING REPORT TO NAC ON WEDNESDAY TO COUNTERACT DISSATISFACTIONS AS WELL AS ILLUSIONS ON PART SOME NATO COUNTRIES. AGREED TO TABLE OPENING SECTIONS (PARAS 1 THROUGH 6) ELEMENTS WESTERN POSITION PAPER FOR DISCUSSION IN WORKING GROUP TOMORROW TO PROVIDE POSSIBLE BASIS OF REPORT TO NAC.
5. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OVER LOGGERHEADS SITUATION CREATED BY CONFLICTING BRITISH-GERMAN INSTRUCTIONS AGREED WORKING GROUP SHOULD COMMENCE WORK BY REVIEWING OPENING SECTIONS UNITED STATES PAPER, DISCUSSING INFORMALLY PAPERS SUBMITTED NAC BY BELGIUM AND CANADA AND EXCHANGING VIEWS ON QUESTIONNAIRE. GERMANS COMPLAINED THEY UNPREPARED FOR DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONNAIRE.
6. SEEMS CLEAR FROM TODAY'S MEETING WORKING GROUP NOT GOING TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS UNLESS IT CAN FOCUS FAIRLY SOON ON ARTICULATED SUBSTANTIVE POSITION. WE HOPE SUBMISSION FIRST TWO SECTIONS OUR PAPER WILL GIVE SOME IMPETUS BUT BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE COMPLETE DRAFT PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
7. ALSO CLEAR THAT GERMANS AND TO SOME EXTENT FRENCH EXPECTED TO COORDINATE DRAFT OF REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE OF MARCH 2 IN WORKING GROUP. WE SAID WE WERE PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION SUCH COORDINATION WOULD TAKE PLACE WASHINGTON BUT COULD RAISE QUESTION WITH DEPARTMENT IF OTHERS ALL WANTED TO DISCUSS PARIS. BRITISH, OF COURSE, DO NOT WANT TO DISCUSS REPLY ANY PLACE AT THIS TIME.

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| Authority | <u>NND 877418</u> |
| By | <u>TKT</u> NARA, Date <u>1-5-80</u> |